

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7338

To amend title 49, United States Code, to codify the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Mrs. SYKES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to codify the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Railroad Safety and
5 Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CODIFICATION OF THE RAILROAD SAFETY ADVI-**
7 **SORY COMMITTEE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 201 of
9 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 20122. Railroad Safety Advisory Committee**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Fed-
3 eral Railroad Administration shall maintain an advisory
4 committee, to be known as the ‘Railroad Safety Advisory
5 Committee’, for the purpose of providing advice and rec-
6 ommendations to the Administrator regarding the develop-
7 ment of railroad safety regulatory programs, including the
8 issuance of new regulations, review and revision of existing
9 regulations, and identification of non-regulatory alter-
10 natives for improving railroad safety.

11 “(b) DUTIES.—The Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
12 mittee shall have the following responsibilities:

13 “(1) To provide a forum for collaborative rule-
14 making and regulatory program development with
15 respect to railroad safety.

16 “(2) To develop, through collaborative processes
17 involving all segments of the railroad community,
18 regulatory standards and mutually satisfactory solu-
19 tions on railroad safety regulatory issues for rec-
20 ommended adoption by the Administrator.

21 “(3) To identify and assess the facts and data
22 underlying any real or perceived railroad safety
23 problems, identify cost-effective solutions to such
24 problems based upon agree-upon facts, and identify,
25 if applicable, regulatory changes necessary to guide
26 and implement such solutions.

1 “(4) Any other responsibilities consistent with
2 the purpose described in subsection (a), as deter-
3 mined by the Administrator.

4 “(c) MEMBERS.—The Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
5 mittee shall be comprised of not fewer than 1 representa-
6 tive from each major stakeholder group of the Federal
7 Railroad Administration, including freight and passenger
8 railroad carriers, Amtrak, organizations that represent
9 local governments, rail passenger organizations, railroad
10 labor organizations (including organizations representing
11 each of operating crafts, maintenance of way employees,
12 shop and mechanical crafts, clerks, and dispatching em-
13 ployees), safety-related railroad employees, and railroad
14 suppliers and manufacturers.

15 “(d) STAFF.—The Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
16 mittee may employ such staff as the Railroad Safety Advi-
17 sory Committee determines necessary to carry out the pur-
18 pose described in subsection (a).

19 “(e) TASK-BASED WORKING GROUPS.—

20 “(1) TASKS.—The Administrator may request
21 the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee establish a
22 working group for the purpose of providing specific
23 advice and recommendations regarding a task with
24 respect to which the Administrator is considering
25 acting.

1 “(2) WORKING GROUPS.—If the Railroad Safe-
2 ty Advisory Committee, based on consideration and
3 consensus of its members, accepts a request under
4 paragraph (1), the Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
5 mittee shall—

6 “(A) establish a working group to develop
7 consensus recommendations for action the Ad-
8 ministrator may take with respect to the task;
9 and

10 “(B) ensure the working group is com-
11 prised of individuals that—

12 “(i) possess the appropriate expertise
13 to assess and develop such recommenda-
14 tions; and

15 “(ii) are representative of the inter-
16 ests of stakeholders implicated by the task.

17 “(f) FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION RE-
18 QUIRED ENGAGEMENT.—The Administrator shall meet
19 quarterly with the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
20 to—

21 “(1) consult with the Railroad Safety Advisory
22 Committee regarding the development of railroad
23 safety regulatory programs of the Federal Railroad
24 Administration;

1 “(2) advise the Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
2 mittee on emerging issues, statutory requirements,
3 and other identified needs with respect to railroad
4 safety; and

5 “(3) receive and discuss the views and rec-
6 ommendations of the Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
7 mittee in determining regulatory priorities of the
8 Federal Railroad Administration.

9 “(g) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Beginning in
10 the first calendar year after the date of enactment of this
11 section, the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee shall
12 submit to Congress an annual report summarizing the ac-
13 tivities of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee for the
14 period covered by the report.

15 “(h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-
16 BILITY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code,
19 shall apply to the Railroad Safety Advisory Com-
20 mittee.

21 “(2) NON-TERMINATION.—Section 1013 of title
22 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Rail-
23 road Safety Advisory Committee.

24 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust

1 Fund such funds as may be necessary to carry out this
2 section.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for sub-
4 chapter I of chapter 201 of title 49, United States Code,
5 by inserting after the item relating to section 20121 the
6 following new item:

“20122. Railroad Safety Advisory Committee.”.

